

# Beaverhead County Farm Service Agency News

April 2007

Farm Service Agency  
420 Barrett St.  
Dillon, MT 59725  
406-683-3830

## COUNTY COMMITTEE

David Schuett, LAA 1    Chair  
Jerry Meine, LAA 2    Vice-Chair  
Donna Hildreth, LAA 3 Regular Member

## OFFICE STAFF

Alan Jenne    Farm Loan Manager, Acting CED  
Jenny Rose    Program Technician

### 2007 FINAL YEAR OF DCP PROGRAM UNDER 2002 FARM BILL

The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program has been extended from June 1 to August 3, 2007.

The decision to extend the deadline was made as a result of earlier computer networking problems that hampered FSA's ability to process DCP enrollments. Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2006. The extension applies only to the enrollment time frame and does not extend the annual DCP contract period beyond September 30, 2007. A late-file fee of \$100 will be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 but no later than September 30, 2007. Applications filed after September 30, 2007 cannot be approved.

Direct Payments are based on a farm's historical commodity bases and yields. For crop year 2007, an advance payment of 22 percent may be requested with the final payment to be issued in October.

Counter-cyclical payments are made to producers when the effective price for eligible commodities is less than the target price.

We encourage you to signup early to avoid the \$100 late file fee. Contact the office to set up an appointment.

### NAP PULL OFF

Each FSA County Committee determines the date when livestock must be removed from NAP forage acres each spring. The date determined in Beaverhead County is May 1 for lower elevations and May 15 for higher elevations.

**WOOL AND MOHAIR PRODUCERS NEED TO FILE CCC-633 EZ**

The 2007 crop year for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts began January 1, 2007 and ends December 31, 2007. For 2007, wool mohair, and unshorn pelt producers need to file a CCC-633 EZ form. The purpose of filing this form is for producers to:

- Indicate their intentions to receive Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) benefits (on page 1 of the CCC-633 EZ) before the loss of beneficial interest; or
- Submit an LDP request for benefits at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

Producers are reminded to file the CCC-633 EZ at the FSA office.

### 2007 ACREAGE REPORTS

It is time to certify your crop acreage and all acreage reports need to be accurate and filed by the final reporting date of July 16, 2007. Certification is mandatory if any of the following apply:

- ◆ You receive DCP payments
- ◆ You have acres enrolled in CRP
- ◆ Loans or LDP's will be requested; including Wool, Mohair and Honey  
(All cropland on the farm must be certified to be eligible for DCP and loan program benefits).
- ◆ Acreage is covered by NAP

All acreage reports need to be filed by the final reporting date of July 16, 2007. Failure to report accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits. Maps will be sent to producers towards the end of April. If you do not receive a set of maps, please contact our office.

**CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE**

Federal regulations discourage the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion by an approved conservation system. Status reviews are conducted to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land.

In addition to the highly erodible land, a person may not plant an agricultural commodity on wetland converted after Dec. 23, 1985, or convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after Nov. 28, 1990.

Failure to comply with these provisions will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits. County Committees may review noncompliance situations for good faith and provide relief in approved cases.

#### **FARM LOANS FOR MINORITY GROUPS**

FSA can make direct and guarantee loans to groups considered as minorities under USDA definition. These groups include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Funds can be used to buy and operate family-sized farms and ranches.

Individuals and entities primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-sized operations may apply. A family-sized farm is considered to be one that a family can operate and manage itself. Applicants must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance. Contact the FSA office for exact criteria.

Repayment terms for direct operating loans depend on the collateral securing the loan and usually run from 1 to 7 years. Interest rates for direct loans are set periodically according to the Government's cost of borrowing. Repayment terms for direct farm ownership loans are up to 40 years. Interest rates for guaranteed loans are established by the lender. Applications for direct loans are made through the local FSA office. Applications for guaranteed loans are made with the lender.

#### **GRAZING THROUGH DROUGHT YEARS**

As Montana ranchers know all too well, managing livestock needs and rangeland condition can be difficult in drought years. Here are some potential strategies to consider when developing grazing systems in drought.

- Wean calves or lambs early (dry cows require about a third less forage and 60%

less water than lactating cows. Dry, early gestation beef cows require 40% less energy and 50% less protein than lactating cows). Calves can be weaned as early as 45 days or 200 pounds with no compromise in calf performance (calves fed a balanced ration in dry lot or weaned at about 4 months and placed onto high quality pasture with supplement).

- Graze pastures in the spring that were grazed during dormancy last year, and rotate more quickly during this time if possible.
- Graze pastures during dormancy that were grazed during the spring last year, if possible.
- Consider using rested pastures (this will help spread out grazing pressure).
- Delay turnout time in the spring, in order to allow plants time to develop and to help lessen grass tetany and poisonous plant problems.
- Try to graze pastures that have not been grazed during the drought.
- If lightly used areas exist on your ranch, consider developing additional water and fencing to improve livestock distribution within your grazing system.
- Consider conducting a nutritional assessment of your pasture using fecal sampling to determine cost effective grazing, weaning, and supplementing decisions.

If you are interested in assistance developing grazing strategies or acquiring related technical information and guides, please visit the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) website at <http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov> or contact:

NRCS Dillon Field Office

420 Barrett St.

Dillon, MT 59725

(406) 683-3803

#### **DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH STORAGE FOR YOUR HARVEST?**

*Before* harvest is the best time to prepare for harvest! FSA can make loans to help you build or upgrade your farm storage and handling facilities.

Loans can be made for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed

drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities.

Eligible facilities include:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins designed and engineered for whole grain storage and having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New oxygen limiting and other upright silo-type structures designed for whole grain storage or other than whole grain wet storage having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- Re-manufactured oxygen-limiting storage structures built to original manufacturer's design specifications using original manufacturer's rebuild kits having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New structures that are upright, bunker-type, horizontal, or open silo structures with at least 2 concrete walls and a concrete floor, designed for whole grain storage or other than whole grain storage having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New permanently affixed grain handling and drying equipment determined by FSA to be needed and essential to the proper functioning of a grain storage system, with or without a loan for storage structures;
- Existing storage can be renovated according to FSA regulations with or without an increase in storage capacity;
- New electrical equipment, such as lighting and motors integral to the proper operation of grain storage and handling equipment, excluding the installation of electrical service to the electrical meter;
- New equipment to improve, maintain or monitor the quality of stored grain;
- Safety equipment as required by CCC; and,
- New flat-type storage structures, including a permanent concrete floor and bulkheads,

### **Farm Service Agency**

420 Barrett Street  
Dillon, MT 59725

designed for and primarily used to store whole grain for the term of the loan.

The maximum loan amount of any farm storage facility loan shall be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment not to exceed \$100,000 for each borrower signing the note and security agreement.

The maximum term of the loan is 7 years. The interest rate for each loan will remain in effect for the term of the loan. Contact the office for further information.

### **NAP PRODUCERS**

It is imperative that you timely file a notice of loss to maintain eligibility for NAP benefits. A notice of loss must be provided within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for yield losses. A 2007 certified crop report must be on file **prior** to filing a notice of loss.

Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

### **DEADLINE SET TO APPLY FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has set the deadline for private landowners to submit conservation program applications as **June 1, 2007**. The application cutoff date applies to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

NRCS accepts conservation program applications year-round; however, applications must be made by the June 1, 2007, cutoff date to be considered for funding in fiscal year 2008. Applications made after the application deadline will be considered in the next funding cycle. Applicants will be notified of program acceptance in the fall as soon as NRCS receives program funding allocations.

PRESORT STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE <b>PAID</b> BOZEMAN, MT 59715 PERMIT #54
--

### *Inside this Issue*

❖ DCP Deadline ❖ Farm Loan Program ❖ NAP Information ❖ CCC-633EZ reminder ❖

### *Dates to Remember*

May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> – NAP Pull off Dates

May 28<sup>th</sup> – Office Closed

June 1<sup>st</sup> – NRCS Program Sign-up Deadline

July 16<sup>th</sup> – Acreage Reporting Deadline

July 16<sup>th</sup> – Production Reporting Deadline

August 3<sup>rd</sup> – DCP Signup Deadline

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.